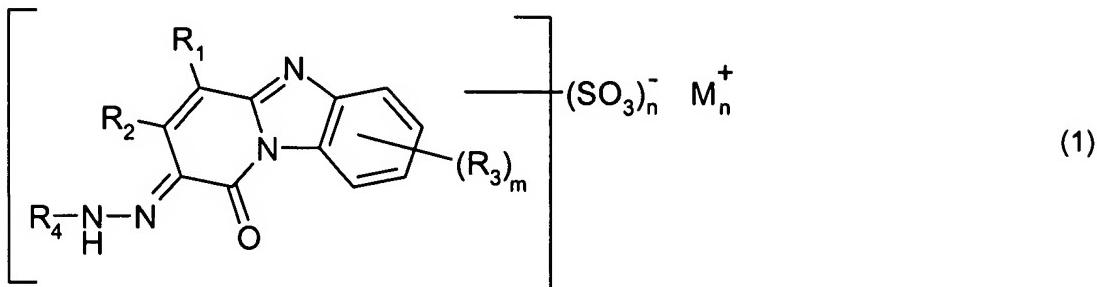


In the Claims:

**1. (currently amended)** An azo dye of formula



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is -CN, -COOR<sub>5</sub>, -CONR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or a heterocyclic ring, R<sub>2</sub> is unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, unsubstituted or substituted aryl, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -COOR<sub>5</sub>, -CONR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub> or -COR<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, -SO<sub>3</sub>M, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, -NO<sub>2</sub> or halogen, R<sub>4</sub> is substituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl or an aryl-N=N-aryl radical, wherein one or both of the aryl radicals in aryl-N=N-aryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, or a radical heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl, wherein one or both of the heteroaryl radicals in heteroaryl-N=N-heteroaryl is/are unsubstituted or substituted, R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl, R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen, alkyl or unsubstituted or substituted aryl,

M<sup>+</sup> is a cation-phosphonium salt or N(R<sub>8</sub>)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, wherein the substituents R<sub>8</sub> are each independently of the others hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>16</sub>alkyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alcohol

n is a number 1, 2 or 3 and m is a number 1, 2 or 3,

and when n is a number 2 or 3, each M<sup>+</sup> can be the same or different.

**2. (original)** An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is -CN or -CONH<sub>2</sub>.

**3. (previously presented)** An azo dye according to either claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is methyl, isopropyl, -CF<sub>3</sub>, phenyl or p-methoxyphenyl.

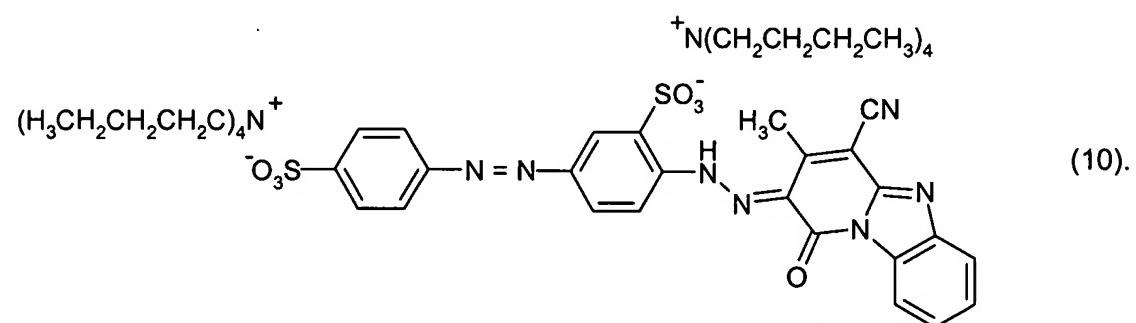
**4. (previously presented)** An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, chlorine or -SO<sub>3</sub>M.

**5. (previously presented)** An azo dye according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is phenyl substituted by methyl and/or by methoxy and/or by -NO<sub>2</sub> and/or by -CF<sub>3</sub> and/or one or more times by -SO<sub>3</sub>M, or is phenyl-N=N-phenyl, wherein one of the phenyl radicals or both phenyl radicals independently of one another is/are unsubstituted or substituted as indicated above.

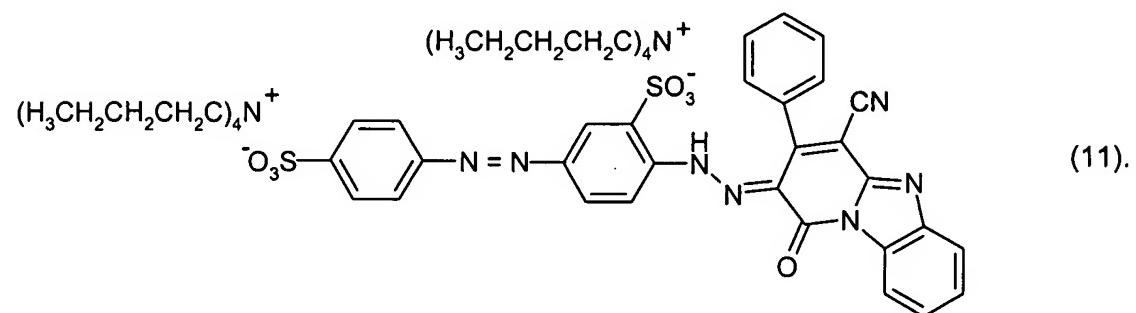
**6. (currently amended)** An azo dye according to any one of claims claim 1, wherein R<sub>4</sub> is naphthyl substituted one or more times by -SO<sub>3</sub>M.

**7. (currently amended)** An azo dye according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cation M<sup>+</sup> is Primene 81, N<sup>+</sup>[(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>]<sub>4</sub>, N<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>33</sub>)(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> or N<sup>+</sup>(C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>21</sub>)<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

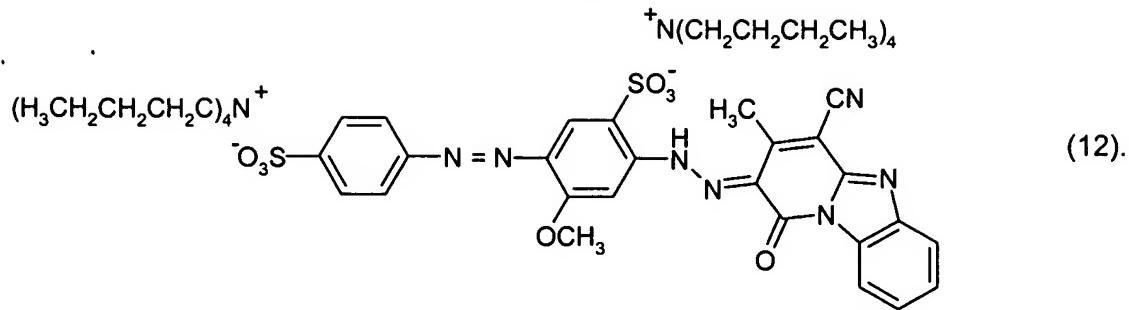
8. (original) An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



**9. (original)** An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



**10. (original)** An azo dye according to claim 1 of formula



**11. (cancelled)**

**12. (original)** A process for the production of coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles, in which one or more azo dyes of formula (1) according to claim 1 is/are incorporated into those materials.

**13 (cancelled)**

**14. (original)** The coloured plastics or polymeric colour particles according to claim 12.

**15. (original)** An aqueous wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

**16. (original)** A process for colouring wood, in which an aqueous wood stain according to claim 15 is used.

**17. (cancelled)**

**18. (original)** Wood coloured according to claim 16.

**19. (original)** A purely solvent-containing wood stain comprising an azo dye of formula (1) according to claim 1.

**20. (original)** A process for colouring wood, in which a purely solvent-containing wood stain according to claim 19 is used.

**21. (cancelled)**

**22. (original)** Wood coloured according to claim 20.

**23. (currently amended)** A process for dyeing or printing semi-synthetic or synthetic hydrophobic fibre-fiber material, in which one or more azo dyes according to claim 1 is/are applied to the hydrophobic fiber material mentioned material or incorporated therein.

**24 - 25. (cancelled)**

**26. (currently amended)** A process according to claim 23, in which the hydrophobic fiber material consists of polyester-fibres fibers.